# Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

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### **Contact Us**

Monroe County District Attorney's Office

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# Monroe County District Attorney's Office

# DISTRICT ATTORNEY

# Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

#### An Open Letter to our NYS Delegation

On Tuesday, members of my Vehicular Crimes Bureau went to Albany to support the passage of the Deadly Driving Bill. As you read last week, I am in full support of this legislation to make our roads safer.

To follow-up, I sent every New York State Legislator who represents a portion of Monroe County my reasons for support. I also asked each Senator and Assemblyperson where they stand on this bill. I encourage you to read my letter below:

#### Dear Assemblyman Representative,

As a member of the New York State Legislature representing parts of Monroe County, I would like to draw your attention to a common sense, bipartisan bill that deserves your focus during this legislative session.

Titled the "Deadly Driving Bill," S.3135 is important to me and all advocates for safer roadways. I join traffic safety advocates, criminal justice professionals, and family members who have lost loved ones to drugged driving, to urge you to support the passage of this law to close the dangerous loopholes of drugged driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there was a 10.5% increase in car crash fatalities in one year. This increase is the largest surge in fatalities since 1975. In New York State specifically, drug-related vehicular fatalities, or those involving the combination of alcohol and drugs, greatly surpassed fatalities we see from alcohol alone. At the same time these fatalities are increasing, the number of suspected drug-impaired drivers refusing to take chemical tests has doubled from 11% to 22%.

From 2019 to 2020, drugged driving-related fatalities across New York State increased 63%, combined alcohol and drug-related vehicular fatalities increased nearly 60%, and alcohol-only related vehicular fatalities decreased 20%. Driving while under the influence of narcotics is currently the greatest threat to our roadway safety.

# Homicide Update

To Date 2024:

City of Rochester Total: 2 Monroe County Total: 2 The Deadly Driving Bill is not a political issue, it is a roadway safety issue, which is why it has sponsors from both parties. The Deadly Driving Bill corrects many oversights that currently exist in the Vehicle and Traffic Law, especially regarding language and definitions. This legislation retitles drugged driving to apply to all impairing substances, not just those listed on the New York Public Health Law 3306 list. New York is one of five states in the country using a list that does not mirror new and emerging impairing substances and synthetic drugs.

Without the change in the law, my office is unable to prosecute cases involving drugged drivers based on the specific substance found in their system. This technicality means that we cannot find justice for victims in these avoidable, deadly crashes. This also means that those who are abusing these undefined substances get behind the wheel of a vehicle without fear of repercussion, although they are risking the lives of everyone on the road.

Simply put, this legislation will make our roads safer. As the Monroe County District Attorney and Chief Law Enforcement Officer, I would like to know where you stand on the Deadly Driving Bill. If you want to discuss this further, I would be happy to talk about S.3135. You may email me at <a href="mailto:DistrictAttorney@monroecounty.gov">DistrictAttorney@monroecounty.gov</a> or call me at (585) 753-4334. I look forward to your response regarding this life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

Sandra Doorley Monroe County District Attorney

It is my sincerest hope that I receive a response from every New York State Senator and New York State Assemblymember to whom I wrote. I hope to see the Deadly Driving Bill become the law this legislative session.

Sandra

# Highlights from the MCDA's Office

**Shadad Alghaithy** pled guilty to Rape in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for the rape of a girl less than fifteen years old. He will be sentenced to a total of 17 years in the New York State Department of Corrections plus 15 years of post-release supervision. He will be sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano on February 14, 2024. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kevin Sunderland, of the Special Victims Unit.

A Monroe County Jury convicted 31-year-old Lequan Hill of Murder in the Second Degree for the murder of Antoine Parris on November 3, 2022. On November 3, 2022, at approximately 6:45PM, Rochester Police Officers were called to Frost Avenue in the City of Rochester for reports of a man who was stabbed. It was discovered that 42-year-old Antoine Parris was stabbed and he was immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where he died from his injuries shortly after. After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department and the New York State Division of Parole, Leguan Hill, a parolee who was released from custody early on a parole violation the previous month, was identified as the suspect. Lequan Hill was in an argument with his father while walking past the house of Antoine Parris on Frost Avenue. Antoine Parris attempted to intervene when Lequan Hill stabbed him. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and Special Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, of the Special Investigations Bureau. Lequan Hill will be sentenced on February 14, 2024, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi.

**Hermes Laureano** was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a weapon on March 1, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ryck, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

**Edison Estremera-Cohen** was indicted on four counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in relation to the possession of illegal narcotics on September 9, 2023 and November 7, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Caranante, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Joseph Dawson and Althea Hubbart were indicted on Grand Larceny in the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree in relation to the theft from a company on September 1, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kenisha Flowers, of the General Felony Bureau.

**Cristian Gonzalez-Reyes** was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in relation to the illegal possession of a firearm on December 18, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

**Andrew Boyer** was indicted on Burglary in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in relation to a burglary on October 21, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caroline Rodriguez, of the General Felony Bureau.

**Craig Sims** was indicted on two counts of Menacing in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in relation to an incident on October 25, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Diane Orosz-Roy, of the General Felony Bureau.

**Joshua Codding** was indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree in relation to a domestic stabbing on December 21, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kaylee Rizzari, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

**Kishann Nesmith** was indicted on Burglary in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in relation to a Burglary at a store on August 25, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caroline Rodriguez, of the General Felony Bureau.

**Shavar Brooks** and **Miguel Clemons** were indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree in relation to a shooting on December 26, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst and Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, both of the Special Investigations Bureau.

## MCDA in the Community

Assistant District Attorney Raymond Benitez, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau, Assistant District Attorney Janna Jehlen, also of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau, and Community Relations Director Calli Marianetti attended the Deadly Driving Bill Rally in Albany. It is our hope that this bill becomes a law this session!



## **Crime Stoppers**

Assistant District Attorney Sarah Pittman and Assistant District Attorney Kirby Leggett attended this week's Crime Stoppers for Good Day Rochester! The ADAs discussed No Contact Order of Protections and Failures to Appear in court. You can watch the entire segment in the link below!



https://13wham.com/news/crime-stoppers/crime-stoppers-most-wanted-what-you-need-to-know-about-court

### MCDA in the News

https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2024/01/09/lequan-hill-convicted-in-death-of-antoine-parris-in-rochester-ny/72158831007/

https://www.whec.com/local/parolee-sentenced-for-killing-neighbor-whowas-trying-to-break-up-argument-on-frost-avenue/

https://13wham.com/news/local/man-convicted-in-2022-deadly-stabbing-in-front-of-home-on-frost-avenue-in-rochester

https://www.rochesterfirst.com/rochester/parolee-found-guilty-in-fatal-frost-avenue-stabbing-rochester/

https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2024-01-08-rochester-man-guilty-of-stabbing-neighbor-to-death/

https://www.whec.com/top-news/suspect-in-fire-that-killed-8-year-old-rochester-girl-in-2004-in-court-friday/

https://wpde.com/news/nation-world/two-decades-later-man-charged-timothy-kuhn-for-8-year-old-girls-death-savannah-streber-in-rochester-new-

<u>york-fire-monroe-county-court-holmes-county-second-degree-murder-first-degree-arson</u>

https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2024/01/05/family-of-8-year-old-killed-in-fire-speaks-out

https://lawandcrime.com/crime/after-almost-20-years-man-charged-in-molotov-cocktail-arson-that-killed-8-year-old-girl/

https://tbrnewsmedia.com/suffolk-county-d-a-travels-to-albany-to-urge-lawmakers-to-pass-deadly-driving-bill/



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.